

Sunny Bank
North Garden vicinity
Albemarle County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-996

HABS
VA
2-NOGAR.V
2-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SUNNY BANK

HABS No. VA-996

HABS
VA
2-NOV-96
2

Location: North Garden vicinity, Albemarle County, Virginia

Present Owner: Dr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Hart

Present Occupant: Dr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Hart

Present Use: Dwelling

Statement of Significance: This house which was built circa 1797 by Andrew Hart, is a fine example of eighteenth century domestic architecture in Virginia. Six generations of this name have lived here.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Reference is the Circuit Court of Albemarle County, Virginia.

1797 Deed recorded May 25, 1795 in Book 12 page 273 (property--no mention of building)
Estate of James Cooke, approximately 700 acres to Andrew D. Hart

1832 Will of Andrew Hart recorded on March 26 in Will Book 11 page 99
"I give and bequeath to my wife Elizabeth that tract of land called Sunny Bank. . . at her decease to fall to my son William D. Hart.

1832 December 14 in Will Book 11 page 146 is recorded the inventory of Andrew Hart's estate.

1877 Will of William D. Hart recorded on February 6 in Will Book 29 page 249
"I give to my wife Elizabeth the whole of my estate. . ."

1885 Will of Elizabeth D. J. Hart recorded October 10 in Will Book 30 page 93

1885 Will of Elizabeth D. J. Hart . . . "I give to my grandson Andrew D. Hart my Sunny Bank farm. As this farm has been in the family for four generations it is my wish that it shall continue undivided in the possession of any one of his

children . . . I would prefer that he be called William D. or Andrew D. Hart, but I wish my grandson to use his best discretion in his choice and give it to the one who will more nearly follow in the footsteps of his grandfather.

- 1892 Will of Elizabeth D. J. Hart probated March 7 in Will Book 30 page 93.
- 1926 Will of Andrew Hart recorded May 21 in Will Book 34 page 66.
"This is to certify that I hereby give my wife Virginia B. Hart all the property I am possessed of . . ."
- 1926 List of Heirs of Andrew Hart recorded December 1 in Will Book 34 page 66
Mrs. Virginia B. Hart--60 years
R. W. B. Hart--36 years
Mrs. Elizabeth Jones--34 years
William D. Hart--26 years
Andrew D. Hart--23 years

2. Date of Erection: 1797-1802.

3. Architect: Unknown.

4. Alterations and additions: The house originally consisted of a two story center block with a projecting two story portico, flanked by one story wings. A second story was probably added to the wings soon after the house was built. This assumption is based on the fact that the beaded weatherboard, the window architraves and the modillioned cornice are virtually identical to those of the original portion of the house.

The plan of the original house included a two-story entrance hall with a circular balcony. This is supported by evidence of the interruption of the cornice in the entrance hall and the pieced floor boards in the hall on the second floor.

The one story porches at either end of the house were enclosed, to accommodate a kitchen and bathroom, some time during the twentieth century.

The remains of window architraves, and built in cupboards and a bricked over fireplace were found in the basement. This room may have been used as a dining room at one time.

B. Sources of Information:

Deed and Will Books, Circuit Court of Albemarle County, Virginia.

Rawlings, Mary. Anti-Bellum Albemarle, Charlottesville, Virginia: The People's National Bank, 1935.

Woods, Edgar. Albemarle County, Virginia. 1900.

Records of Mutual Assurance Company of Virginia.
dated October 18, 1802, July 18, 1805, October 28,
1816.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Sunny Bank is an example of the fine country houses which were built in Virginia during the Eighteenth Century.
2. Condition of Fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: This house, which is seven bays (100 feet) wide has a two story center block, flanked by one story wings. The two story projecting portico contains six columns--two stories in height, each turned from a single tree. Plan of house is a Greek cross.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Beaded weather-board painted white, in excellent condition.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame with weather-board.
5. Porches: Two story projecting portico with six columns--two stories in height, each carved from a single tree. Modillioned cornice and fanlight decorate the pediment.
6. Chimney: One brick exterior chimney in the rear center block of house, two interior brick chimneys on the east and west ends of the two story wings.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways: Main entrance is a six panel door with a semi-circular fanlight. The same doorway leads to second floor of the porch.
 - b. Windows and shutters: all windows, except for those on the rear portion of second floor of the

center block facing east and west which are six over nine light sashes, are wooden double hung windows with two over two light sashes. A circular fanlight window is located in the pediment of the portico. The wooden shutters are louvered. The original wooden shakes on the roof have been replaced with asphalt shingles. A fine modillioned cornice is located on the south, east and west elevations and along the pediment on the porch.

6. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Basement: The brick basement contains several different rooms under the entire house and porch. The furnace is located here. Some woodwork has been found here and it is believed that perhaps it was once used as a dining room.
 - b. First Floor: The doorway leads into a large central hall. The stairs are located on the left side of the hall which opens onto three rooms; a dining room on the left, a living room straight ahead and a bedroom to the right. The hallway and these three rooms contain original woodwork. The one story wings were added much later and contain a bathroom and bedroom on the east side and a kitchen, pantry and porch on the west side.
 - c. Second Floor: The second floor consists of a central hall leading onto the porch. The two bedrooms located over the living room are the original rooms, the bedrooms located over the dining room and the first floor bedroom were probably added soon after the house was built. A small room, now used as a bathroom is located opposite the stairs on the southeast side of the house.
 - d. Attic: unfinished. The original roof structure with wooden pegs and wooden shakes is visible from inside the attic.
- ### 2. Stairways:
- The main stairway is a dog leg stair with winders. This is not the original stair as can be seen by examining the ceiling in the entrance hall and the floorboards in the second floor hallway. The handrail is approximately four inches in width and is connected to carved wooden newel posts on the first and second floor. The basement and attic stairs are two run stairs with winders.

3. **Flooring:** The hardwood floors throughout the house consist of floorboards four inches in width.
4. **Wall and ceiling finish:** Painted plaster is used throughout the house. The cornices in the entrance hall, living room, dining room and first floor bedroom are in very good condition. The above mentioned rooms all have chair rails, the living room also has paneled wainscoting below the chair rail.
5. **Mantelpieces:** The mantelpieces used throughout the house are all different with the exception of those in the two original bedrooms which are extremely simple. Those in the other rooms are more complex with the mantelpiece in the living room being the largest and most elaborate of them all.
6. **Doorways and Doors:** The main door is a four paneled wooden door, while six paneled doors are used throughout the house. The door frames which have six inch wide architraves and the doors are all presently painted white.
7. **Hardware:** A box lock and key are still in use on the front door. Most of the other hardware in the house has been changed.

D. **Site:**

1. **General setting and orientation:** The house faces south-southwest on a hilltop surrounded by open fields and bordered on the north by the Hardware River.
2. **Outbuildings:**
 - a. **Office:** The 12 by 14 foot one story office has an exterior end chimney and beaded weatherboarding with a gable roof. The door and simple architrave trim are both made of wood.
 - b. **Kitchen:** The one-and-a-half story kitchen has a central interior brick chimney. The walls are composed of beaded weatherboard. The roof is gabled and decorated with a modillioned cornice. The building is 18½ by 28½ feet. The windows on the north and south side of the first floor are six-over-six light sash windows with single six light windows above. The door and architrave are similar to those used on the office.
 - c. **Smokehouse:** The 12 foot square smokehouse is constructed of roughly hewn wooden boards. The door is made of four wide vertical panels.
 - d. **Log shed:** The log shed which measures 13 by 14 feet,

is constructed of logs with notched joints. The gabled roof is surfaced with tin.

- e. Garage: The garage, which measures 20 by 40 feet, is supported on the open (west) side by massive tree trunks. The other three sides are enclosed with roughly hewn horizontal boards.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of a project undertaken by the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia under the direction of K. Edward Lay, Associate Professor of Architecture, drawn and researched Fall Semester 1974 by Jeff Berger, Architecture Student, Chuck Koch, Architecture Student and Nancy Recchie, Graduate Architectural History Student. The documentation was donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey. It was not produced under HABS supervision, nor edited by members of the HABS staff.